



American Baptist News Service
American Baptist Churches USA / Mission Resource Development
P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
Phone: (610)768-2159 / Fax: (610)768-2320
Bridget Holmstrom, Web Manager/Communication Specialist
Email: abns@abc-usa.org

Wiles Called as New Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 1/3/13)— The Board of Ministries of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI) unanimously voted to call Rev. Tom Wiles as Executive Minister. The projected start date is February 11, 2013.

“On behalf of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, I am delighted to welcome Rev. Tom Wiles as our next Executive Minister. We believe that the Lord has called Tom to be our leader, and we truly look forward to working with him,” said Donna D. Sherman, president of ABCORI.

Dr. C. Jeff Woods, associate general secretary for Regional Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, said, “Tom brings a unique background of administrative, financial, and ministerial leadership skills to this position. His commitment to ABC is much appreciated and his love of Christ and neighbor is contagious. I am excited about the future of ministry in this region.”

Wiles has served as Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in North Platte, Nebraska since 2004. Prior to that, he served as a University Chaplain and adjunct faculty for Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Earlier, he pastored two churches, one in Arizona and one in Texas. As he began his career, he served as business administrator for a church in Texas and one in Oklahoma. He is in the process of earning a Doctor of Ministry from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, anticipating graduation in 2014. He has been active in the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, and has completed a number of independent study and certificate courses.

Tom's wife Linda is a teacher in Nebraska and will finish out her teaching year, before moving to Rhode Island to join him. Linda and Tom have three grown children and two grandchildren.

“I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island,” said Wiles. “Their gifted and committed leadership, both laity and clergy, have demonstrated a remarkable ability and willingness to face the challenges of the future with wisdom gained from a rich history and innovation brought forth from fresh opportunities. I am overjoyed to join ABCORI in the journey that lies ahead. There is no question that God is doing

good work in Rhode Island and beyond and I can think of nothing more exciting than to pray and work with the Baptists in Rhode Island as we discern our places in God's mission.”

American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with over 5,200 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God's mission around the world.